Rural electrification in Jharkhand

4227. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 269 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 2006 and state:

(a) how many villages of Jharkhand are un-electrified so far;

(b) the reasons for not allocating funds for Jharkhand for the last five years upto the 30th September, 2006;

(c) whether Government are neglecting Jharkhand altogether although 22 districts of Jharkhand are affected by Naxalite;

(d) if so, whether Government are aware that as per Government records almost 60 per cent of people of Jharkhand fall under BPL category and by not electrifying the villages, the poverty will accelerate instead of decelerating; and

(e) what is the projected electrification for Jharkhand for the year 2007-08 and by when all the villages of Jharkhand will be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA) report 20,235 villages were yet to be electrified in Jharkhand as on 31.01.2007 (Out of 29, 354 inhabited villages as per 2001 census, 9,119 villages have been reported electrified as on 31.3.2007, thereby leaving a balance of 20,235 villages yet to be electrified).

(b) Year-wise funds released for rural electrification to Jharkhand under Minimum Need Programme (MNP), Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Kutir Jyoti Programme (KJP) and Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) are as below:—

2002-03	Rs. 8210.59 lakh
2003-04	Rs. 7611.15 lakh
2004-05	Rs. 830.60 lakh
2005-06	Rs. 350.00 lakh
2006-07	Rs. 28524.00 lakh

(c) No, Sir, the State did not participate in the Government of India Scheme 'Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh villages and One crore households' launched in 2004-05 which subsequently got merged in RGGVY. Those States which participated in the scheme were ready with the project proposals and were taken up immediately. Jharkhand Government submitted DPRs during the second half of 2005-06 and by the time, the approved outlay of Rs. 5000 crore had already been committed by way of sanction of 125 projects. It was only in the last quarter of the financial year 2006-07 that the Ministry of Power succeeded in getting approval to go beyond Rs. 5000 crore and thus 110 more projects in addition to the 125 projects were made eligible for release of funds in Phase-I of the scheme. These 110 projects cover 13 projects of Jharkhand.

The implementing agencies have reported award of ten projects. State Government of Jharkhand/implementing agencies have not reported electrification of any village so far Jharkhand has availed an amount of Rs. 288.74 crore as on 31.03.2007.

(d) As per 22 Detailed Project Reports received from Jharkhand Government, the proposal is for relase of 16,93,291 Below Poverty Line (BPL) connections. 13 projects which have been sanctioned, cover 9.5 lakh BPL households.

(e) As estimated by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the Nodal Agency for RGGVY, it is targeted to cover 2,720 un-electrified villages for electrification and 1,115 electrified villages for intensive electrification in Jharkhand for 2007-08. RGGVY envisages electrification of all un-electrified villages in the country including Jharkhand by 2009.

Power shortage due to power plant outages

4228. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acute gas shortage coupled with high plant outages is responsible for galloping peak power deficits throughout the country from around 9,500 MW in 2003-04 to an estimated 14,290 MW during April, 2006 - February, 2007 (an almost 50 per cent increase in 3 years);